



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RSA Tower 201 Monroe Street, Suite 914 Montgomery, AL 36104  
Phone 334-206-5300 Fax 334-206-5520

[www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org)

---

## Electronic system allows for quicker issuance of most death certificates in Alabama

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### CONTACT:

Catherine Molchan Donald  
(334) 206-5426

More than 75 percent of all death certificates are being registered electronically in Alabama following the implementation of Alabama's Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

According to Catherine Molchan Donald, State Registrar, "This has resulted in death certificates being filed and available faster to the family. Staff at hospitals, nursing homes and funeral homes no longer have to pass around a single piece of paper to complete a certificate. This has increased accuracy, timeliness and efficiency in the issuance of death certificates."

Training has been offered since the EDRS was piloted in 2011, with statewide roll-out beginning in 2012. Once staff at the Alabama Department of Public Health and Center for Health Statistics saw how well received the program was, plans were put in place to make use of the system mandatory.

In 2014, a State Committee of Public Health rule went into effect that requires physicians who completed 10 or more death certificates in the previous calendar year as well as all coroners and medical examiners to complete death certificates electronically. Additionally, the rule requires that an institution or funeral home shall submit death certificates electronically unless it is forwarding the death certificate to a physician, coroner or medical examiner who is not required by the rule to submit death certificates electronically.

Ms. Molchan Donald admits there are still some institutions, physicians and coroners that need to use EDRS. "We are working to bring everyone involved on board to ensure 100 percent compliance with the rule requirement. We are pleased that we are able to provide death certificates to families of the deceased much faster than before, and the mandatory requirement for use of the secure system will help families receive death certificates sooner."

Vital records are issued by all 67 county health departments. Customers can obtain most vital records from the Center for Health Statistics through their local county health department in 30 minutes or less. Records may also be obtained through the mail in about 7-10 days.

The Center for Health Statistics operates the vital records system and collects and tabulates health-related statistical data for the state of Alabama. The Center files, stores and issues certified copies of vital records including birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates for events that occur in Alabama.

For more information, please contact Catherine Molchan Donald at (334) 206-5426 or visit <http://www.adph.org/edrs/>

-30-

10/20/15